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blowing steady all day long. The birds which were common in and around the sloughs were Black Tern, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Lesser Scaup Duck, Bittern, Green Heron, Wilson's Phalarope, Pectoral Sandpiper, Killdeer, and less numerous here also were Mallard, 3 seen, Coot, 2 or 3, Lesser Yellow-legs, 2, Baird's Sandpiper, 1, along the streams Hooded Merganser 14 seen on the river, Green Heron, common along Skunk Creek, Spotted Sandpiper common along the river, Black-crowned Night Heron, common. Upland Plover was common on the prairies, only 2 Bobwhites and 2 Prairie Chickens. Mourning Dove was common, one Marsh Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo common, Black-billed Cuckoo not so common, Belted Kingfisher, one each of Hairy and Downy Woodpecker, Flicker common, Chimney Swift common in the city, Kingbird and Arkansas Kingbird both common, one Traill's Flycatcher, a few Prairie Horned Larks and Blue Jays, Bobolinks and Cowbirds common on the prairies, Yellow-headed Blackbird very common around the sloughs, Red-winged Blackbird, western Meadowlark and Bronzed Grackle common, one Baltimore Oriole, very few Grasshopper Sparrows, Song Sparrow and Dickcissel common, Field Sparrow and Towhee heard, Rose-breasted Grosbeak common, one Lark Bunting, Purple Martin common in the city, Barn and Bank Swallows common, and Rough-winged Swallow fairly common along the river, White-rumped Shrike fairly common, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos heard, Yellow Warbler and Western Yellow-throat common, Catbird very common, Brown Thrasher and Western House Wren common, one Chickadee, Wood and Wilson's Thrush heard, Robin and Bluebird common.

ADRIAN LARSON.

#### THE EVENING GROSBEAK AT CAMBRIDGE, OHIO.

On February 26, 1911, I saw one pair feeding under the pines, with the juncos and tree sparrows.

After watching them for some time, they flew into the trees, and I did not again see them, until April 8.

They evidently were there all the time, but I was not yet familiar enough with the call note and rattling cry to follow them up. After the 8th they could be found at any time, always very close together, until April 30, when the female disappeared, the male remaining until May 3, but he no longer called and was perfectly silent and moody.

I feared the cats had taken the female, and would like to know if, in the flock of six, which you record from Oberlin, the females disappeared first.

I am certain there was only one pair and they were always found within two or three hundred feet of the spot where first seen, and allowed close observation.

*Cambridge, Ohio.*

MRS. ROBERT T. SCOTT.

#### PLATFORMS TO BIRD-HOUSES.

Many writers on nature study topics have told us that in making a house for birds no platform should be put on under the entrance, as a house with no platform will not be molested by English Sparrows.

Such a statement is wholly unwarranted by the facts. The writer hereof has had upwards of a dozen bird-houses for several years past, some with and some without platforms and close observation leads him to conclude that a sparrow shows no preference on account of a platform—that he will enter one with no platform just as freely as though it had one.

I prefer a house with a platform of liberal size, attached an inch or two below the entrance, as it is a great convenience for young birds to go out and in before they are old enough to leave the nest. Then, too, it enables both parents to sit on their doorstep at one time, and thus better enjoy their home.

A house for a wren should never be without a platform, as in carrying in sticks for the nest foundation the bird nearly always finds it necessary to lay each stick down and get hold of it closer to the end in order to get it through the door, and for this a platform of liberal size is needed.

Such conveniences are enjoyed by birds as much as by people. The better they are pleased with the quarters we provide the more apt they are to return to the same premises the next spring.

*North East, Pa., Nov. 16, 1911.*

L. B. C.

January 25, 1912.

EDITOR, WILSON BULLETIN:—Another spring season is approaching with its opportunities for bird study. Photography has become a very important adjunct to the equipment of the field ornithologist. The writer does not believe it is necessary, or wise, to indiscriminately encourage the amateur to enter the field of bird-photography, but it is desirable that those who do attempt it shall be provided with the conveniences which will increase the probability of success.

Most of the apparatus needed for this work is now on the market, but, so far as the writer can learn, a satisfactory camera stand has not been put out. The worker has been compelled to